



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

24709

October 4, 2001

Reply To
Attn of: ECL-113

Via Facsimile and U.S. Mail

Raymond T. Swenson
Senior Counsel
Bechtel BWXT Idaho, LLC
P.O. Box 1625
Idaho Falls, ID 83415-3940

Re: INEEL, CERCLA Section 104(e) Request for Information

Dear Mr. Swenson:

This letter responds to a letter from Mark D. Olson, Managing Counsel, dated September 25, 2001, in which Bechtel BWXT Idaho, LLC (BBWI) requested that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) withdraw the information request issued to BBWI under Section 104(e) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), 42 U.S.C. §9604(e). In the alternative, BBWI requested an additional seventy-nine (79) day extension to respond to the information request.

EPA does not agree to withdraw the information request issued to BBWI. BBWI may wish to coordinate its response with the U.S. Department of Energy, and to the extent it does, is not required to submit any duplicative records, however, BBWI remains responsible for responding to the information request under Section 104(e) of CERCLA.

With respect to BBWI's request for an extension, as you are aware, EPA's information request dated August 22, 2001, allowed BBWI thirty (30) days from receipt to respond. BBWI's desire to take nearly four (4) months to respond seem unnecessary given the limited scope of the information request. EPA is confident that Bechtel will be able to provide records responsive to the information request within a more reasonable time frame and I therefore extend the deadline until October 25, 2001. We expect to see a good faith effort on the part of Bechtel to provide such documents by that date.

BBWI also included a five-page enclosure containing requests for clarification on the information request. A separate letter will follow responding to your request for clarification.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,


Michael F. Gearheard, Director
Office of Environmental Cleanup

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cc: Bill Shipp, BBWI